

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Ageless watch

Join in for the movie review of "Closely Watched Trains," directed by Jiří Menzel, at Movie Magic @ Urban Solace. Closely Watched Trains (Czech: Ostře sledované vlaky) is a 1966 Czechoslovakian New Wave coming-of-age comedy film and is one of the best-known films of the Czechoslovak New Wave. It is a story about a young man working at a train station in German-occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II. The film is based on a 1965 novel by Bohumil Hrabal. **Where:** Urban Solace **When:** October 13, 6 pm to 9 pm

02 Short stories

As part of the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival 2024, watch 'Kahaniyan', a Hindi play based on Kannada short stories. Directed by Devendra Raj Ankur, 'Kahaniyan' explores the rich and often unheard voices of the subaltern. The story remains a story and continues to transform into a theatrical scene-performance on the stage. In this process, an integrated presentation of three stories is placed before the audience in 'Kahaniyan'. **Where:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar **When:** October 13, 7:30 pm



03 Handloom arena



From exclusive Rajasthani Malmal cotton sarees and Kashmiri pashmina sarees/shawls to intricate jewellery, dress materials, khadi kurtas, suit pieces, home decoratives, artefacts, marble crafts, and much more, explore vast collections at the 'Handloom and Handicrafts Expo.' The exhibition brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India and is all about the use of traditional handloom skills to create contemporary lifestyle products. Gift products abound at the exhibition. **Where:** Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, RBI Layout, JP Nagar **When:** Until October 15, 10 am to 9 pm



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PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Concerns rise over mid-term exams amid paper leak issue

State education board's new strategy aiming to improve SSLC results brings on new challenges for parents', students; private schools conduct their own tests as question papers leak online

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

In light of the recent mid-term SSLC exams, it has been reported that while most schools conducted the examinations according to the question paper provided by the board, some private schools have disregarded this and conducted their own tests. This situation has raised concerns among parents and students alike.

Answer-key leaked on social media

As many of the city's prestigious pre-university (PU) colleges have begun seat booking based on the marks obtained in the SSLC mid-term exams, parents are worried about their child's future. Parents' anxiety stems from the fact that all answer sheets for the SSLC exams were leaked on social media platforms before the exams took place, which would lead some students who appeared for the exam to score higher, and students from private schools who didn't take these exams may receive lower marks and risk losing seats in top colleges.

Reports indicated that question papers were leaked on social media platforms four to five hours before each examination. Students were able to view these leaked papers daily, allowing them to easily prepare their answers upon arriving at school. Despite media reports high-

lighting the leaks, the board has failed to prevent them.

Frustrated by this situation, some private school management stopped using the board's question papers from the second day of the exams and opted to conduct their own tests using papers prepared by their administration. They also announced that they would assess these tests and publish results based on them. "We do not want to conduct exams based on leaked question papers. Therefore, some schools have opted to conduct tests using their own prepared question papers, and we will evaluate those results," stated D Shashikumar, General Secretary of the Karnataka Association of Management of Primary and Secondary Schools (KAMS).

With exams held from September 24 to 30, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) conducted the 2024 SSLC mid-term exams at the board level for the first time. Around 8,00,000 students answered the exams, and the question paper was distributed online. It is also noted that since the beginning, school management boards have expressed opposition to board-level exams. Nevertheless, the board proceeded with the exams.

Parents' concerns

Speaking on the admissions situation, a parent said, "Some of the prestigious PU colleges have allegedly created artificial demand by blocking seats even before the SSLC annual exams



'Reports indicated that question papers were leaked on social media platforms four to five hours before each examination'

begin. They are using the marks obtained in the mid-year exams as a benchmark. This situation poses a challenge as students who face the board's exams are likely to score better, while those sitting for school-administered tests may receive lower marks. Parents are increasingly worried about this scenario."

Board's response to leaks, further action

In light of the paper leaks, the board reduced the time for distributing question papers. Instead of sending the papers a day

before, they were now sent just four hours prior to the exam. Additionally, complaints regarding the leaks were filed at police stations in Davanagere and Anekal, but no culprits have yet been identified. Despite the daily leaks, the board has not taken any decisive action. "Once the board prepares a question paper, all state syllabus schools must adhere to it. Schools cannot conduct exams based on their preferred methods. I will investigate this matter and take necessary actions," said KSEAB president N Manjushree.

Illegal mining cases Complaint lodged against Kumaraswamy

The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) M Chandra Sekhar, who heads the Special Investigation Team (SIT) which is investigating illegal mining cases, on Friday lodged a police complaint against Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy for allegedly threatening him to scuttle the probe against the former CM.

The probe against the minister pertains to allegations that he illegally approved a 550-acre mining lease to Sri Sai Venkateswara Minerals (SSVM) in Bellary district in violation of law during his tenure as Karnataka chief minister from 2006 to 2008. He is now the Union Minister for steel and heavy industries.

"The SIT, after preparing the investigation report and having found substantial evidence and material to prosecute the accused (Kumaraswamy), had written to Governor of Karnataka seeking sanction for prosecution against the accused HD Kumaraswamy, on November 21, 2023," Sekhar said in his complaint lodged at



Sanjay Nagar police station.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, vide his letter dated July 29, sought certain clarifications after going through the report, he said.

This communication, along with other documents reached the SIT after 11 days on the evening of August 8. "The SIT is just one step away from prosecuting this accused Kumaraswamy," Sekhar said.

Kumaraswamy, who is out on bail, addressed a series of press briefings on September 28, 2024, "and made false and malicious allegations and threats to me," he stated. Sekhar alleged that this was done to deter him and the SIT from pursuing the cases against Kumaraswamy.

—PTI

DKS mandates Rajyotsava celebrations across city

All schools, colleges, industries, and corporations, including IT and BT companies in Karnataka, are to mandatorily celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava on November 1, according to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's announcement on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Sadashivanagar, he stated, "All educational institutions and companies across Bengaluru and Karnataka must celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava by hoisting the state flag and organising cultural events." He emphasised the need to create aware-

ness about the Kannada language among younger generations, noting that outsiders make up 50% of the city's population. "We need to provide opportunities for them to learn Kannada, which is the basis for this government order," he added, urging IT and BT companies to at least hoist the flag and participate in the celebrations. He instructed all corporate entities and industries to share photos of their celebrations with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) via a designated WhatsApp number. "As we celebrate the 70th Kannada

Rajyotsava, it is everyone's duty in Karnataka to learn Kannada. I am announcing this decision in my capacity as Bengaluru Development Minister," he stated.

Caution on misuse of order

Shivakumar also cautioned against any misuse of this order by pro-Kannada organisations. "While this is an official directive, it does not give anyone the right to take the law into their own hands. Strict action will be taken against those who resort to force," he warned.

—BMB

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When will Congress stop 'flex'ing banners?

While few Congress leaders strongly oppose flex banners, most of them continue to put them for festivals and birthdays, disregarding court orders

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The irony within the Congress party is appalling. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hogged the headlines when he yelled at a Youth Congress leader for putting up banners. Many people, especially environmentalists, appreciated him for his concern for making Bengaluru a beautiful city.

However, many Congress leaders continue to put up banners on one or the other pretext. For example, Congress leaders of CV Raman Nagar have put up banners and posters in Indiranagar on the occasion of opening the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee Office. The inauguration was held on October 7 but the banners remained on electric poles and at road dividers several days after the inauguration. The banners have no BBMP seal, indicating that they were put up illegally. "Putting up banners is against the norms. It is quite disgusting to see the banners on electric poles even after three days. I want the BBMP authorities to act against those responsible for putting up banners and the BBMP employees for not removing those banners," said Umesh S, a resident.

Coming down heavily on Congress leaders for putting up banners, Sreenivas N, another resident, said that Congress leaders should indeed



BBMP executive engineer assured that they would take measures to remove posters and banners put up illegally

be role models in making Bengaluru a beautiful city, but their actions are conveying otherwise. "Politicians, especially Congress leaders, try to put

up banners during festivals and to convey birthday wishes. It is the responsibility of the BBMP authorities to remove the banners that are put

up against norms. As per the High Court order, the jurisdictional police have to register cases against those responsible for putting up banners without permission," said Sreenivas.

A resident, on the condition of anonymity, said the BBMP authorities should have the courage to remove banners put up by Congress leaders. "There should not be any discrimination in removing illegal posters and banners," they stressed. BBMP's assistant executive engineer

“ This is in blatant violation of court orders & putting these up in public places causes environmental concerns & safety issues

— Vinod Jacob

assured that they would take measures to remove posters and banners put up illegally.

"This is in blatant violation of court orders and putting these up in public places causes both environmental concerns and safety issues to citizens. The BBMP & KSPCB should take this seriously and stop the use of flex banners with strict rules and fines. They should use the online and digital platform for rendering customer awareness and services since everybody is online through their mobile phones," said Vinod Jacob from Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

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Illegal pots

Sadashivnagar



Pots have been placed on footpaths at Sadashivnagar 7th cross and Lower Palace Orchards, which is illegal. Immediate action is required to remove them.

Occupied footpath

Shivajinagar



Vendors have completely occupied the footpath from Shivajinagar bus stand through St. Mary's Church off Road and Veerapillai Street, forcing pedestrians to walk in the middle of the road.

ORR to become pedestrian friendly soon

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Road Infrastructure (RI) Department has started work on the restoration of drains and footpaths along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) service road

between Marathahalli and Iblur. This project is part of a larger initiative aimed at improving pedestrian infrastructure ahead of the much-anticipated launch of the ORR Metro Line. The restoration efforts are focused on ensuring that the entire stretch is walkable, as the metro launch is expected to increase foot traffic in the area. According to

BBMP officials have stated that coordination with other agencies like BWSSB & BMRCL is key to avoiding disruptions

BBMP officials, the current work includes rebuilding the footpath and drains, while ensuring that there is no obstruction for pedestrians.

Integrated approach with other agencies

BBMP officials have stated that coordination is key to avoiding future disruptions. One significant concern is the need for the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to complete the Underground Drainage (UGD) line in some stretches of the ORR service road. In an effort to avoid the issue of newly constructed roads being dug up soon after completion, BBMP is also working closely with Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

Residents welcome the move

Residents in the area have expressed optimism about the ongoing work. Many believe that a pedestrian-friendly ORR is crucial, especially once the metro line becomes operational. "Anticipating the ORR Metro to be operational soon, the footpaths getting repaired is great news for commuters who rely on the metro," says Clement Jayakumar, member secretary of Mahadevapura Task Force.

"The footpath has been in bad shape for years, and we are happy that BBMP is finally addressing the issue. It's not just about the metro launch but also the daily safety of walkers," said Shruti R, a resident of Marathahalli.

The restoration work is expected to be completed in phases, and residents hope that with the added infrastructural improvements, the area will become safer and more accessible for pedestrians, which would be of prime importance.



Namma Metro work's first U-girder launched near Bagmane World Technology Centre, Doddanekundi on ORR (File photo)

Risky pothole

Horamavu



A large pothole with a metal rod protruding from the manhole chamber has been a hazard on Horamavu main road, 2nd Cross Junction for three months, posing a significant risk for accidents.

Western Ghat rivers choke on solid waste from hotels, homestays: Report

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A spot inspection report filed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) revealed that various commercial establishments, lodges, and hotels dispose of sewage and solid waste in Western Ghat river systems.

KSPCB conducted the inspection of Agni Theertha and Souparnika Rivers' stretches in Udupi District following an order by the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Previously, a petition was submitted to the Green Court by locals regarding the polluted river stretches.

Inspection findings

Upon inspection, it was found that while some commercial establishments are discharging raw sewage into river stretches due to a lack of underground drainage (UGD), others are disposing of solid waste into the UGD system, leading to blockage of sewer pipelines.

The sewer house service connection coverage around the river stretches was found to be incomplete. Additionally, few houses and commercial complexes in the areas



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were not connected to the UGD system. Moreover, since there is no demand for treated sewage in the region for irrigational or industrial purposes, it is being discharged to the Souparnika River.

"Lodges, hotels, and homestays were found to be disposing of solid waste into the UGD system, which leads to frequent blockages of sewer pipelines and manholes. Sewage generated from a few lodges and hotels was being let into storm water

Lodges, hotels, & homestays were found to be disposing of solid waste into underground drainage system, which leads to frequent blockages of sewer pipelines, manholes

drains," noted the report.

"Not just in Udupi, commercial establishments across the Western Ghat area in Karnataka have such commercial establishments. Many of them are illegal and are polluting river systems in the region, apart from causing various other issues. KSPCB should conduct inspections of all such areas through its regional offices," said a local conservationist.

Previous cases

Notably, KSPCB had conducted several prior inspections in Kolluru village in Udupi District. A sewage treatment plant (STP) of 1.5MLD capacity was inspected in 2021, and it was observed that the STP was operating without valid consent from the Board.

Moreover, no sewage effluent was found entering the STP, indicating it was not being utilised. Thereafter, KSPCB issued a notice to the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board.

Multiple inspections were carried out in 2023 as well, based on a complaint lodged alleging pollution in the Agni Theertha River. After finding irregularities, the Board issued a notice to Kollur Gram Panchayat and directed the officials to complete the UGD connection to all houses in the gram panchayat limit.

Stop treating natural wildlife injuries: Expert

A wildlife scientist has urged the discontinuation of medical treatment for wild animals injured due to natural causes within protected areas. Speaking to Mirror, Sanjay Gubbi raised concerns over the growing trend of treating such animals, comparing the practice to caring for domestic pets, which he argued could harm long-term wildlife conservation efforts and exacerbate human-wildlife conflict.

In a formal letter addressed to Karnataka's Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, Gubbi stressed the need to halt medical intervention for wild animals injured naturally. He pointed out that while treatment for animals hurt by unnatural causes such as snares or vehicular accidents should continue, treating naturally injured animals interferes with the natural ecological balance.

Gubbi cited the tragic death of Forest Watcher Sri Venkatesh last year during the treatment of a wild elephant, highlighting the dangers during such operations and reinforcing the need to reconsider current practices.

"The natural injuries and mortality are crucial elements of the wildlife life cycle, playing a vital role in regulating animal populations. For species like tigers and elephants that have no natural predators, such injuries help maintain their numbers within the ecological carrying capacity, thereby reducing the risk of human-wildlife conflict," he said.

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Shakti scheme breaking transport utilities' back?

State transport corporations face losses totalling over Rs 8,000 crore as dues pile up

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The implementation of the Shakti Scheme, providing free travel for women, has reportedly increased revenue for Karnataka's transport corporations. However, the financial losses incurred by these entities continue to escalate. Except for the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), the other three transport companies—Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), North-Western Transport Corporation, and Kalyana Karnataka Transport Corporation—have seen their losses rise year after year, raising concerns about their sustainability.

Over the past decade, these transport corporations have consistently reported losses. Currently, their combined losses amount to approximately Rs 7,625.95 crore. Furthermore, they have outstanding dues of nearly Rs 6,000 crore, including salaries and provident fund contributions owed to staff. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the state government covered these costs.

According to data, before the Shakti Scheme was introduced in the fiscal year 2022-23, the total revenue collected by all four transport corporations was Rs 9,020.13 crore. Following the scheme's implementation, revenue increased to Rs 11,103.43 crore. From June 11, 2023, to September 25, 2024, around 297.25 crore women benefited from free travel, amounting to a ticket value of Rs 7,166.08 crore.

The transport corporations in Karnataka are facing a significant financial crisis, with outstanding



Dues of nearly Rs 6,000 crore include salaries and provident funds of its employees

Implementation of recommendations from PGR Sindhia and Srinivasa Murthy committees and a budget allocation of Rs 10,000 crore to support the transport sector is being urged

losses totalling over Rs 8,000 crore. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has incurred losses of Rs 1,815.83 crore, while the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has recorded losses of Rs 2,056.30 crore. Additionally, the North-Western Transport Corporation and the Kalyana Karnataka Transport Corporation have reported losses of Rs 2,299.30 crore and Rs 1,454.52 crore, respectively.

To compound the financial woes, outstanding payments for staff salaries, retirement benefits, provident fund contributions, salary

increments, spare parts suppliers, and fuel supply companies amount to several crores. As of August 2023, the state government has only paid Rs 5,289.34 crore out of the Rs 6,831.67 crore incurred from free travel under the Shakti Scheme, leaving an outstanding amount of Rs 1,542.33 crore.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy acknowledged the financial challenges but emphasised the importance of providing affordable transport facilities to the public. He attributed the current financial situation to the previous government's legacy of a Rs 5,900 crore debt. The

current government has taken steps to improve the transport infrastructure. While the Shakti Scheme has increased revenue, the government has refrained from raising fares for BMTC since 2014 and for other transport corporations since 2020.

However, some stakeholders have criticised the government's policies for contributing to the financial distress of the transport corporations. HV Ananthsubba Rao, president of the KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation, argued that if the government is unwilling to increase fares, it should bear the financial burden and cover the outstanding dues. He called for the implementation of recommendations from the PGR Sindhia and Srinivasa Murthy committees and urged for a budget allocation of Rs 10,000 crore to support the transport sector.

Mysuru Dasara in full grandeur

Dasara festival is being celebrated with much fervour and grandeur in Mysuru city. Thousands of tourists including foreigners have flocked to the city to witness the Dasara celebration and the Jamboo Savari.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah conducted Nandi Dhvaj puja at auspicious Makara lagna between 1.41 pm and 2.10 pm and gave a green signal to the Dasara festivities on the last day of the Vijaya Dashami festival.

Abhimanyu, the captain elephant of a group of 9 elephants carried the gilded monument of golden howdah weighing 750 kilos in which the goddess Chamundeshwari idol is placed, from the premises of the Mysuru Palace to the Bannimantap Grounds.

CM Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Mysuru In-charge, Minister for Social Welfare HC Mahadevappa and Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi paid flower tributes to the goddess Chamundeshwari.

The illumination in Mysuru city for 21 days, starting with an official inauguration ceremony. The illumination covers 130 kilometres of the city, including 100 circles and 65 light artworks. The lights remain on for an additional 10 days after Dasara.

"In view of heavy footfalls for the Mysuru Dasara, the Dasara illumination will be extended by 10-12 days," said Shivakumar. "The drone show involving 1,500 drones is a big draw. More than 2.5 lakh people had gathered for the programmes of famous music composers Ilayaraja and A. R. Rahman," he said.

The acrobats of military personnel on motorbikes, horse show in precision by Karnataka Armed Reserve Police (Mounted Policemen), entertaining Sound and Light Show and enthralling Torchlight Parade by young Policemen, will bring the curtains down on Navarathri festivities in the city late in the night.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will attend the torchlight parade. The programme will commence after paying respects to the Governor. —IANS

Centre's 'raw deal' to state slammed

Siddaramaiah says Karnataka contributes 8.4% to nation's GDP, yet receives only 3.64% of tax allocation

It is once again a case of State Government versus Central Government with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah alleging unfair treatment of Karnataka in tax allocation. He said that of the Rs 1,78,193 crore distributed across 28 states, Karnataka received a meager Rs 6,498 crore. This glaring disparity calls for every Kannadiga, regardless of caste, religion, or political affiliation, to raise their voice against this injustice. CM said that Karnataka contributes 8.4% to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), yet receives only 3.64% of the tax allocation. Uttar Pradesh, with a tax share of 17.93%, and Bihar with 10.05%, fare far better, even though Karnataka is second in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections nationwide, with a consistent growth rate of 17%. From 2017-18 to 2023-24, Karnataka lost a staggering Rs

59,274 crore due to the unscientific implementation of GST, with only 52% of collected GST being returned to the state.

Dwindling tax share over time

CM said that in the 14th Finance Commission, Karnataka's tax share was set at 4.71%. However, under the 15th Finance Commission, this was reduced to 3.64%, causing the state to lose an estimated Rs 62,275 crore over five years (2021-26). "To make up for this loss, the Finance Commission recommended a special grant of Rs 5,495 crore to Karnataka, but the Central Government failed to honour this recommendation. The Central Government has also denied Rs 3,000 crore for Bengaluru's Peripheral Ring Road and Rs 3,000 crore for lake development, further depriving Karnataka of essential funds," said Siddaramaiah. He added that Karnataka contributes Rs 4 lakh crore to the nation's total tax collection annually, yet receives only Rs 45,000 crore in tax allocation, along with an additional Rs 15,000 crore in grants. "For every Rs 1 Karnataka gives to the



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing the press (File photo)

Centre, only 15 paise comes back. Despite the Union Budget more than doubling from Rs 24.42 lakh crore in 2018-19 to Rs 48.20 lakh crore in 2024-25, Karnataka's tax share has remained stagnant, receiving just Rs 44,485 crore in 2024-25. Ideally, Karnataka should have received at least Rs 1 lakh crore per year," he added.

CM stressed that every self-respecting Kannadiga must question why Karnataka is

being sidelined by the Central Government. While states notorious for poor governance like Uttar Pradesh received Rs 31,962 crore, Bihar Rs 17,921 crore, Madhya Pradesh Rs 13,987 crore, and Rajasthan Rs 10,737 crore, Karnataka's share remains unjustly low. "Why should the hard-earned money of Karnataka's people be used to compensate for the inefficiencies of these states? It's time we demand answers. Karnataka has consistently demanded a revision of the tax allocation criteria to ensure that progressive states are not penalised while poorly governed states are rewarded. Yet, the Central Government has remained indifferent. Despite the Finance Commission recommending Rs 5,495 crore in special grants for Karnataka, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rejected the proposal. This has caused Karnataka a total loss of Rs 79,770 crore over the 15th Finance Commission period. As Karnataka continues to be marginalised in the federal structure, it is time for a public debate on how the state can secure its rightful share while maintaining respect for the federal system," he said.

Tale of two buildings

As files get damaged due to leaks at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, its contrast with Bengaluru's older structure comes into focus



| Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While Vidhana Soudha built in Bengaluru decades ago is still going strong, it's replica, the Suvarna

Vidhana Soudha, once envisioned as a powerful administrative hub for North Karnataka, is facing serious maintenance issues with rainwater seeping into the building, damaging important documents of various departments housed there.

In an official letter, authorities from the Department of Women and Child Welfare informed an RTI applicant, who had requested access to certain documents, that rainwater had collected in their office, resulting in the destruction of important records. This has led to accusations from parents and students

that the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board is more focused on conducting exams than addressing administrative shortcomings.

Over the years, the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha has lost its grandeur due to poor maintenance, with the building's exterior becoming moss-covered and leaks becoming a regular issue. This has made the protection of crucial documents a challenge for officials. Despite earlier claims by the government that there were no maintenance issues, recent admissions by officials have brought the state's handling of the building's upkeep under scrutiny.

Key documents damaged

Officials from the Belagavi Rural CDPO (Child Development Project Office) have confirmed that several important files in their office were damaged due to water accumulation. Nagraj R, Deputy Director of the Department of Women and Child Welfare in Belagavi, stated

that they would assess the extent of the damage and take necessary action.

For years, activists have raised concerns over the construction quality of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, but the government consistently dismissed these claims. However, public sentiment is now pushing for a third-party investigation into the construction quality, with demands for action against those responsible for the building's deterioration.

Ashok Chandragi, President of the Kannada Organisations Action Committee, remarked, "The same stones used for Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru were reportedly used for Suvarna Vidhana Soudha. However, despite heavy rains in Bengaluru, we have never seen moss or leakage in Vidhana Soudha. The yearly deterioration of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha raises serious doubts about the materials used in its construction."

Criminal action urged for negligence

A major concern is the extensive damage to documents in the Belagavi Rural Child Development Project Office on the ground floor of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha. Despite months passing, district-level officials still lack clarity on the extent of the loss. RTI activist Prashant Burge has demanded an internal investigation into the negligence of taluk and district-level officials, along with criminal charges to be filed against those responsible for the loss of key documents.

Authorities respond

In an official statement, the office confirmed that crucial files related to the procurement of materials for new Anganwadi centres, funded by the Belagavi Zilla Panchayat, were among those destroyed. The RTI applicant had requested these files, and an inspection was scheduled for May 29, but the office was flooded on the same day due to heavy rains, leading to the loss of the documents.



“The same stones used for Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru were reportedly used for Suvarna Vidhana Soudha. However, despite heavy rains in Bengaluru, we have never seen moss or leakage in Vidhana Soudha

Ashok Chandragi, President of the Kannada Organisations Action Committee

Tender cannot hide the stink

Residents say fix basic stench issue before starting new project at KCDC plant

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There is no respite for residents of areas around the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation (KCDC) plant at Kudlu. Foul odour from accumulated waste at the plant continues to fill the air and authorities remain apathetic.

Now, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited has floated a tender inviting bidders for providing the plant with basic infrastructure facilities including E-waste recycling. The value of the work is estimated to be Rs 480 lakh.

The KCDC plant was shut down in April last year and reopened in a month. Bangalore Mirror had written on May 26, 2023, about how the residents' joy was short-lived.

So this time around, the residents are wary. They told BM, the authorities have not acted to mitigate the problem of bad odour. "The decision to float a new tender without addressing the accountability of previous projects is concerning. The new tender suggests a lack of accountability, potential mismanagement of public funds, and a continued disregard for public health. Instead of simply throwing more money at the problem, authorities should investigate past failures and prioritise solutions," said Venkatesh HS, a resident.

Sandeep Kumar Singh, a resident of Kudlu, said the new plan highlights a glaring oversight in addressing the pressing issues. "One of the most immediate concerns of the local community is the pervasive stench. Despite complaints and various underscored violations pointed out by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the BBMP has not shown any urgency in resolving this issue. The stink affects the quality of life for residents within a 2-3 km radius," said Singh.

He said that the Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) mountain still stands ominously, contributing to groundwater pollution and posing an environmental hazard. "The leachate seeping from this RDF pile continues to contaminate Somasundarapalya Lake. It is pertinent for BBMP to realign its priorities and focus on rectifying the existing malpractices," he said. He demanded the authorities resolve the stench issue by ensuring that bio-filters are functional, and remove the RDF and properly manage legacy waste.

KSPCB environmental officer Ashok Kumar told BM that he has indeed received complaints from the public on the bad smell. "We have issued notices to the KCDC management and public hearings were held at our Head Office," he said.



Stench from the plant affects lives of people living across a 2-km radius

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

OCHRE TWILIGHT

The sky turns a mesmerising golden orange at sunset over Nallur.

The picture was clicked by reader
NJ Ravi Chander



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

BBMP to celebrate dog festival on Thursday

Event will bring together RWAs and animal caretakers to share heartwarming stories about their bonds with stray dogs

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to organise a 'dog festival' on October 17. BBMP's Special Commissioner (Health and Animal Husbandry) Suralkar Vikas Kishore stressed the importance of living in harmony with animals to maintain ecological balance. Beyond the usual efforts like animal birth control and vaccinations, he highlighted the need for understanding animal behaviours and accept-

ing them as part of nature. BBMP's Animal Husbandry department, in collaboration with Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust and other interested organisations, plans to launch several initiatives under the bite-free locality campaign. The goal is to nurture "coexistence champions" who will work together to create a humane environment for animals in the city.

Festival of dogs on October 17

"Dogs are often perceived negatively due to concerns of bites and aggression. However, they are loyal, protective, and wonderful companions to humans. BBMP aims

to change this perception by celebrating the Festival of Dogs on 17th October 2024. The event will bring together Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and animal caretakers from across the city to share heartwarming stories about their bonds with stray dogs. The festival seeks to highlight the positive role dogs play in society while promoting responsible coexistence," Kishore said.

Pourakarmikas to assist in feeding community dogs

BBMP will also launch a pilot feeding initiative involving pourakarmikas from four wards. They will coordinate with local restaurants to ensure leftover food is utilised to feed community dogs. As the initiative expands, BBMP plans to connect more restaurants with caretakers in each ward, ensuring dogs are consistently fed. Citizens who wish to volunteer for upcoming animal welfare initiatives can register by scanning the provided QR code and submitting their details by October 15, 2024. For further inquiries, people can contact BBMP's helpline at 1533. This reflects BBMP's commitment to fostering a compassionate and balanced relationship between the city's human and animal populations.



Animal lovers protest at Bangalore Press Club (File photo)

DID YOU KNOW?



A pre-Inca civilization carved a series of massive drawings into Peru's arid coastal plain around 2,000 years ago. Until airplanes started flying over the region in the 1930s, nothing was known about these geoglyphs, often known as the Nazca Lines. Well over a thousand designs have been found thus far: The majority are either straight lines that span up to 48 kilometres or geometric designs like trapezoids and spirals. A few also feature plants and creatures like a dog, a two-headed snake, a hummingbird, a spider, a monkey, a whale, and a humanoid figure known as "The Astronaut." 168 new geoglyphs were found as recently as 2022, but their significance is still unknown to scholars. Though various theories abound, one well-known theory links them to water rituals.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bangaloreans speak their mind

How has the monsoon season affected the city's infrastructure and daily life?



Bhassita Athani, BM Reader

There are many potholes, and most of the roads in Bengaluru are not maintained well. For example, the Bannerghatta road is poorly maintained, and during monsoon season, it becomes even more difficult for the residents.



Priyanka, BM Reader

Heavy rainfall leads to waterlogging and flooding in low-lying areas of the city. This disrupts traffic and damages roads. The continuous rain causes potholes and deterioration of road surfaces, making driving hazardous and affecting the overall condition of the city's streets.



Poorva, BM Reader

As a college student, my main battle during the monsoon season is with getting public transport. The accessibility becomes so low and it becomes very difficult to commute in the city.



Anuj Sethi, BM Reader

I think the biggest hit from the monsoons is the lack of availability of auto rickshaws in Bengaluru. The rains make it difficult to get autos in the city and the fares get shot up as well.



Yash Shinde, BM Reader

In Hulimavu, every monsoon season brings a lot of traffic problems and clogged drains issues which lead to flooding. This hasn't been looked into by the officials yet.



Khushdeep Singh, BM Reader

I think every resident agrees that there are a lot of potholes in the city and because of rain the potholes are not very much visible leading to accidents, so it should be taken care of.

SPEAK TO US

What are some popular recreational activities or hobbies that people in Bengaluru engage in?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at WhatsApp us on [9591233247](tel:9591233247) or mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Documents show OpenAI's long journey from nonprofit to USD 157B valued company

THEN & NOW



Back in 2016, a scientific research organisation incorporated in Delaware and based in Mountain View, California, applied to be recognized as a tax-exempt charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Services. Called OpenAI, the nonprofit told the IRS its goal was to "advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return."

Its assets included a USD 10 million loan from one of its four founding directors and now CEO, Sam Altman.

The application, which non-profits are required to disclose and which OpenAI provided to The Associated Press, offers a view back in time to the origins of the artificial intelligence giant that has since grown to include a for-profit subsidiary recently valued at USD 157 billion by investors.

It's one measure of the vast distance OpenAI — and the technology that it researches and develops — has traveled in under a decade. In the application, OpenAI indicated it did not plan to enter into any joint ventures with for-profit organisations, which it has since done. It also said it did "not plan to play any role in developing commercial products or equipment," and promised to make its research freely available to the public. A spokesperson for OpenAI, Liz Bourgeois, said in an email that the organisation's missions and goals have remained constant, though the way it's carried out its mission has evolved

alongside advances in technology.

Attorneys who specialise in advising non-profits have been watching OpenAI's meteoric rise and its changing structure closely. Some wonder if its size and the scale of its current ambitions have reached or exceeded the limits of how non-profits and for-profits may interact.

They also wonder the extent to which its primary activities advance its charitable mission, which it must, and whether some may privately benefit

OpenAI will regularly release its research results on its website, and share software it has developed with the world under open source software licenses

from its work, which is prohibited.

In general, nonprofit experts agree that OpenAI has gone to great lengths to arrange its corporate structure to comply with the rules that govern nonprofit organisations. OpenAI's application to the IRS appears typical, said Andrew Steinberg, counsel at Venable LLP and a member of the American Bar Association's non-profit organisations committee. If the organisation's plans and structure changed, it would need to report that information on its annual tax returns, Steinberg said, which it has. "At the time that the IRS reviewed

the application, there wasn't information that that corporate structure that exists today and the investment structure that they pursued was what they had in mind," he said. "And that's okay because that may have developed later."

Here are some highlights from the application:

Early research goals

At inception, OpenAI's research plans look quaint in light of the race to develop AI that was in part set off by its release of ChatGPT in 2022.

OpenAI told the IRS it planned to train an AI agent to solve a wide variety of games. It aimed to build a robot to perform housework and to develop a technology that could "follow complex instructions in natural language."

No commercial ambitions

The nonprofit OpenAI indicated on the application form that it had no plans to enter into joint ventures with for-profit entities.

It also wrote, "OpenAI does not plan to play any role in developing commercial products or equipment. It intends to make its research freely available to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis."

Intellectual property

OpenAI reported to the IRS in 2016 that regularly sharing its research "with the general public is central to the mission of OpenAI. OpenAI will regularly release its research results on its website, and share software it has developed with the world."

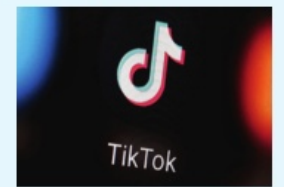
AP

BITS & BYTES

AWARE OF GUILT

TikTok was aware that its design features are detrimental to its young users and that publicly touted tools aimed at limiting kids' time on the site were largely ineffective, according to internal documents and communications exposed in lawsuit filed by the state of Kentucky.

The details are among redacted portions of Kentucky's lawsuit that contains the internal communications and documents unearthed during a more than two year investigation into the company by various states across the country.



Kentucky's lawsuit was filed this week, alongside separate complaints brought forth by attorneys general in a dozen states as well as the District of Columbia. TikTok is also facing another lawsuit from the Department of Justice and is itself suing the Justice Department over a federal law that could ban it in the US by mid-January. **AP**

SCOURING JUPITER

A NASA spacecraft is ready to set sail for Jupiter and its moon Europa, one of the best bets for finding life beyond Earth.

Europa Clipper will peer beneath the moon's icy crust where an ocean is thought to be sloshing fairly close to the surface. It won't search for life, but rather determine whether conditions there could support it. Another mission would be needed to flush out any microorganisms lurking there.

"It's a chance for us to explore not a world that might have been habita-



ble billions of years ago, but a world that might be habitable today — right now," said program scientist Curt Niebur. Its massive solar panels make Clipper the biggest craft built by NASA to investigate another planet. It will take 5 1/2 years to reach Jupiter and will sneak within 25 km of Europa's surface. **AP**

Google asks US judge to pause app store ruling

Google has asked a California federal judge to pause his sweeping court order requiring it to open up its app store Play to greater competition.

In a court filing on Friday night, Google said U.S. District Judge James Donato's injunction order, which goes into effect on Nov. 1, would harm the company and introduce "serious safety, security, and privacy risks into the Android ecosystem."

The tech giant, a unit of Alphabet, asked Donato to stay the order while it pursues an appeal.

The judge issued the injunction on Oct. 7 in a case brought by "Fortnite"



maker Epic Games, which persuaded a federal jury last year that Google was illegally monopolizing how consumers download apps on Android devices and how they pay for in-app transactions.

The judge's order said Google must allow users to download competing third-party Android app platforms or stores and can no longer prohibit the use of competing in-app payment methods. It also bars Google from making payments to device makers to preinstall its app store and from sharing revenue generated from the Play store with other app distributors. **Reuters**

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Docs concerned about diabetic retinopathy striking young

Sridhar Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

City doctors are increasingly observing a rise in the number of young patients developing diabetic retinopathy, a serious eye condition linked to diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy occurs when high blood sugar levels, a hallmark of diabetes, cause damage to the retina.

The retina is the neurosensory tissue at the back of the eye responsible for receiving and processing light signals. It contains delicate neurons that serve as an extension of the brain. Once these neurons are damaged, they cannot regenerate, leading to

irreversible vision loss.

Even a brief disruption in blood flow to the retina can significantly impair its function, making it particularly vulnerable to damage. As a result, diabetic retinopathy is one of the leading causes of blindness among individuals with diabetes. Early diagnosis and proper management of diabetes are key to preventing the onset of this debilitating condition.

Dr. Abhijit Bhograj, Consultant Endocrinologist specialising in diabetes and thyroid at Manipal Hospital in Hebbal, has highlighted the complexities surrounding diabetic retinopathy. He explained that recent studies have revealed that rapidly lowering blood sugar levels, particularly when the drop is significant, may increase the



risk of developing eye complications such as retinopathy.

He stated, "It is not just high blood sugar levels that pose a risk, but the variability of these levels, and how quickly they fluctuate, can exacerbate eye conditions." The glycemic variability—large swings in blood sugar levels—appears to be a major contributor to worsening diabetic retinopathy. Newer diabetes medications that effectively lower blood sugar levels rapidly are proving beneficial in controlling diabetes, but their long-term impact on eye health remains uncertain.

"Managing diabetes carefully is

crucial," Dr. Bhograj emphasized, "as the goal is to balance blood sugar reduction while avoiding rapid changes in levels that could potentially harm the eyes."

Diabetic retinopathy can affect anyone with diabetes, whether they have type 1, type 2, or gestational diabetes. Doctors are particularly concerned about the rising prevalence of diabetes among younger people in India, a trend that is contributing to the increase in diabetic retinopathy cases.

Studies indicate that nearly one in five adults in India now has diabetes, a figure that is expected to rise in the coming years. This growing diabetic population faces a higher risk of developing complications such as diabetic

retinopathy. Several factors can accelerate the progression of diabetic retinopathy, especially among younger patients. These include poor dietary habits, smoking, anemia, lack of physical activity, and pre-existing kidney diseases. These risk factors not only complicate diabetes management but also increase the likelihood of severe eye complications.

As a result, doctors are urging young people with diabetes to be vigilant about their eye health and undergo regular screenings for diabetic retinopathy.

Doctors said that with increased awareness and proper management, the onset of diabetic retinopathy can be delayed, or even prevented in many cases. However, timely intervention and consistent blood sugar control are crucial in minimizing the damage caused by this condition.

Your Connect

GALLERIA

ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕಿದೆ

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I, Channamaregowda Hosahalli Veeramaregowda S/o Veeramaregowda R/o #13, hosahalli, motaganahalli Post, Kasabahalli, nemlamangala, Bengaluru Rural 562123 have changed my name to Channa Mare Gowda For All Purposes



Time for a new lick of paint



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The zebra crossing on Palace Road outside the Mount Carmel College in Vasanth Nagar is barely visible. The area is often busy especially during college hours. "This is a busy road with many students crossing at once, and the faded zebra crossing poses a risk," a student from MCC told BM.

Not only on the road near MCC college, but also at Richmond Road near Baldwin Boys' High School and Baldwin Girls' High school, both sides of the road have faded zebra crossings, in MG Road near Bishop Cotton Girls' school, repainting is needed.

Traffic police's inspection

A Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official told Bangalore Mirror that the repainting of zebra crossings is conducted based on recommendations from the traffic police.

"The traffic police suggest repainting zebra crossings wherever they are needed, that is the process we follow," he said, adding that the traffic police iden-

tify these crucial spots, which then guides the placement of humps and zebra crossings. Higher traffic police officials said that they had all the road markings painted before the rains and after rain, they noted that some paintings of the markings have faded so repainting is needed.

"Our inspectors from the respective traffic stations have already reported this need to the BBMP. Whenever we identify areas that need repainting, we promptly report it.

Another round of painting has been scheduled, with tenders called by the Joint Commissioner of Police. Once finalised, the repainting should happen in the next month or two," said a higher traffic police official.

Meanwhile, citizens and educational institution officials have stressed the need for maintenance. College authorities say at heavy-traffic areas, crossings fade quickly due to vehicle flow. They said consistent upkeep at zebra crossings would play a crucial role in reducing jaywalking and enhancing student safety.

Karnataka also generated more waste than national average

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Out of 221 landfill sites in the state, 165 are sanitary landfills.

The per capita waste generation in the state was also found to be much higher than the national average. While the average per capita waste generated across the country was 123.45 g/day, it was nearly 200 g/day in Karnataka.

Wide gap

The report further highlights that there is a large gap in the segregation and transportation of solid waste at various urban local bodies in Karnataka. While other urban local bodies have a 37% gap in the segregation process, it is 52% in the case of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). A gap of

8.7% was reported in the case of transportation of solid waste in BBMP limits.

City-based solid waste management (SWM) experts point to a surge in dry waste volume over the last few years. While ULBs and panchayats need to pull their socks up, the lack of 100% segregation of waste at source is further adding to the growing disaster of landfills.

"A large amount of mixed waste from homes, restaurants, etc., needs to be managed at source. Moreover, ULBs should consider decentralised processing of solid waste to bring down the pressure on waste processing units. On-site composting, both in the case of households and businesses, should be encouraged through some incentives," said a city-based SWM expert.

GET NOTICED



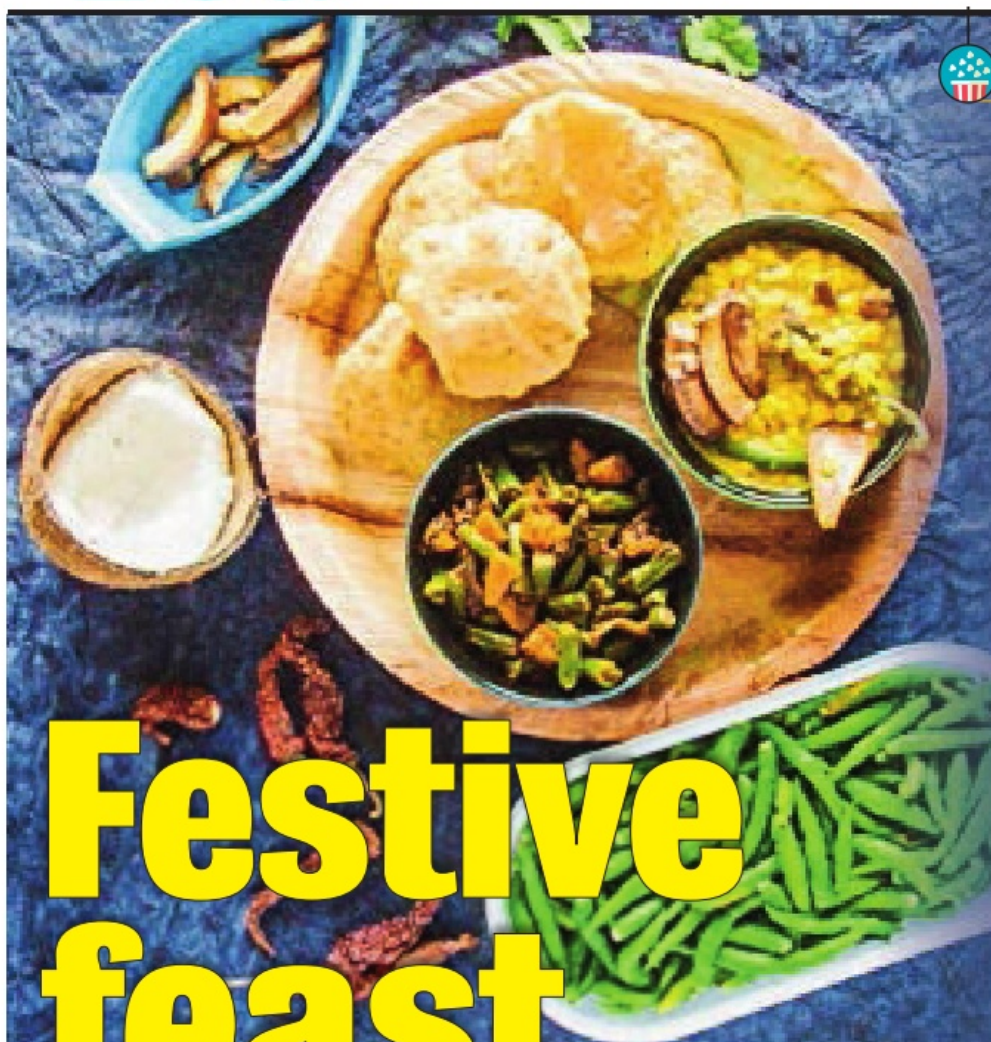
SHOWOFFER

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Mantri Square Mall, Gopalan Arcade

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Festive feast

Recipes to relish while you celebrate



LAVANG LATA

INGREDIENTS

- Sweetened Khoya - 200 gm (made from 1 kg of milk)
- Sugar - 400 gm
- Water - 200 gm
- Maida (All-purpose flour) - 200 gm
- Ghee - 40 gm
- Salt - 2 gm
- Water - 80 gm (or as needed to knead a semi-soft dough)
- Ghee or vegetable oil - for frying

METHOD

Kneading the Dough:

- In a mixing bowl, add maida, salt, and ghee.
- Mix well to evenly distribute the ghee throughout the flour. This step is crucial for a flaky crust.
- The texture should resemble wet sand.
- Gradually add water and mix until the dough comes together.
- Cover the dough and let it rest for 20-30 minutes.

Preparing the Khoya:

- If making khoya at home, prepare it in advance and chill it in the fridge.
- Once chilled for at least 2 hours, divide the khoya into 10 portions of 20 gm each.

- Shape each portion into 3 cm by 4 cm tablets and keep chilled until needed.

Shaping the Pastry:

- After resting the dough, divide it into 10 portions (about 30 gm each).
- Shape each portion into a flat disc and keep covered.
- Roll each disc into a 14 cm circle, about 1 mm thick. Avoid using extra flour or oil for rolling; if the dough is kneaded properly, it won't stick.
- Place the khoya tablet in the center of the rolled dough.
- Lightly moisten the edges of the dough with water using your fingertips.
- Fold the opposite ends over the khoya, overlapping them and pressing gently to seal.
- Turn the pastry over, moisten the sides again, and fold the

edges to seal completely.

- Secure the final seal with a clove.

Making the Sugar Syrup:

- In a saucepan, add sugar and water.
- Cover and bring to a boil to prevent sugar crystallisation.
- Boil for about 10 minutes or until the syrup starts bubbling. The syrup should not be too thick for this recipe.

Frying the Lavang Lata:

- Heat ghee or oil on a low flame.
- Gently place the lavang lata in the oil.
- Fry on low to medium heat, ensuring mild bubbles. Frying at a low temperature allows all layers to cook evenly.
- Turn every 5 minutes and fry until golden, ensuring even cooking on all sides. Each batch should take around 30 minutes to fry.
- Once fried, dunk the lavang lata in the sugar syrup, coat well, and shake off any excess.
- Place them on a plate to cool.
- **Tip:** If the sugar syrup thickens over time, add 1 tbsp of water and reheat for a couple of minutes.



BENGALI STYLE CHOLAR DAL

INGREDIENTS

- Chana Dal - 1 cup, soaked and washed
- Coconut - 1 tbsp, chopped
- Coconut - 1 tbsp, thinly sliced
- Raisins - 1 tbsp, optional
- Green Cardamom - 3 pods
- Cinnamon Stick - 2-inch piece
- Bay Leaves - 2 to 3
- Ginger - 2 tsp, grated
- Green Chilli - 2 to 3, slit
- Cumin Seeds - 2 tsp
- Dry Whole Red Chillies - 2 to 3
- Turmeric Powder - 1 tsp
- Mustard Oil - 1/2 tbsp
- Ghee - 1/2 tbsp
- Sugar - 1 tsp
- Salt - to taste

METHOD

- In a pressure cooker, add the soaked and washed chana dal, a pinch of salt, and turmeric powder. Pressure cook until the dal is cooked but not mushy.
- Heat mustard oil in a pan and shallow fry the coconut slices and chopped coconut until golden brown. Drain and set aside.
- In the same pan, add ghee to the leftover mustard oil. Add crushed cinnamon and cardamom pods.
- Once the aroma is released, add bay leaves, cumin seeds, and dry red chillies. Let them splutter.
- Add grated ginger and slit green chillies, sauté briefly, then pour the cooked dal into the pan.
- Simmer on low heat for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add raisins (if using), sugar, and salt. Stir well.
- Finally, add the fried coconut, mix well, and serve hot with Bengali Luchi, puri, kachori, or rice.



CRISPY FRIED BREAD JALEBI



INGREDIENTS

- White/Brown Bread - 8 slices
- Sugar - 250 gm
- Water - 250 gm
- Cardamom Powder - 2 to 3 pinches
- Ghee - for deep frying
- Almonds and Pistachios - for garnish

METHOD

- In a pan, combine water and sugar, stirring until the sugar dissolves.
- Bring to a boil over high heat, then add cardamom powder and mix well. Boil for 3-4 minutes, then turn off the heat.
- Trim the edges of the bread slices and cut them into triangles or your desired shape. Set aside.
- Heat ghee or oil in a pan and deep fry the bread pieces, one or two at a time, until golden and crispy on both sides.
- Place the fried bread on tissue paper to absorb excess oil.
- Dip the fried bread into the sugar syrup, ensuring it's well coated, but do not leave it in too long.
- Place the coated bread on a serving plate.
- Garnish with almonds and pistachios, and serve immediately to enjoy the crunchiness of jalebi.

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Cervical cancer

Symptoms

In its early stages, cervical cancer may not cause noticeable symptoms, which is why regular screenings are crucial. However, as the cancer worsens, some typical symptoms can be detected.

Abnormal vaginal bleeding, such as after intercourse, between periods, or after menopause, is quite common. Another thing to look out for is unusual vaginal discharge that may be watery, thick, or have a foul odour, as well as the increased frequency or urgency of urination are the archetypal symptoms of cervical cancer.

Prevention

Prevention is possible with a combination of lifestyle choices, regular screening, and vaccination.

Get vaccinated

The primary cause of cervical cancer is the human papillomavirus, or HPV. Vaccines such as Cervarix and Gardasil guard against the most severe strains. The vaccine is most effective when given between 9 and 26 years of age.

Routine tests

Pap smears and HPV tests can detect precancerous changes in the cervix early, so they can be treated before they turn into cancer. Women can start pap tests at the age of 21.

Avoid smoking

Smoking weakens your immune system and increases the risk of developing cervical cancer.

Treatment

Treatment options can vary based on the stages, and it is treatable if caught early.

Surgery: Surgery removes any cancerous tissue. It could be removing part or all of the cervix and uterus.

Radiation Therapy: Radiation uses high-energy X-ray beams to kill cancer cells. **Chemotherapy:** Drugs are used to kill the slow growth of cancer cells.

-Femina

Unreal beauty

Bhumi Pednekar talks about films setting unrealistic beauty standards

Bollywood actress Bhumi Pednekar feels that over the years, films have just set really unrealistic beauty standards and if used rightly movies can truly have a very positive impact.

Asked about film setting the benchmark for fashion and beauty standards, Bhumi, who turned muse for designer Richa Khemka's collection at the Lakme Fashion Week, told IANS: "Films play a large part in setting any kind of benchmark and it's just not limited to fashion and beauty. Cinema can impact a large number of people and if used rightly it can truly have a very positive impact. I think over the years our films have just set really unrealistic beauty standards."

For the show, Bhumi turned into a black swan in a deep-neck backless dress with striking gold detailing as she sauntered the ramp for designer Richa Khemka.

Bhumi finds fashion "liberating and empowering." "Fashion to me is a form of self-expression, it is so liberating and empowering and I've truly found a space

that I really really enjoy," she said.

Ever since set her foot in Bollywood with "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" in 2015, the actress' taste in fashion has evolved as it has become more fierce. She credits exposure for her evolution in style. "My taste in fashion and beauty has changed tremendously over the years, it also comes with exposure, access and just meeting people that have great taste that have opened up my purview to the world of beauty," said Bhumi.

She agrees to being confused and shy about enjoying fashion. Bhumi said: "I think it has also gone from me being confused and shy about accepting that I enjoy fashion to actually putting myself out there and truly enjoying every aspect of it."

The actress is also an environmentalist and has often been vocal about sustainable fashion.

-IANS



Comments that hurt Mallika

Mallika Sherawat is still remembered for 'Murder' with Emraan Hashmi. Fans were truly nostalgic when recently Emraan Hashmi and Mallika re-united at an event after so many years. But Sherawat recently revealed the backlash that she faced for the film.

The actress spoke about it on Ranveer Allahbadia's podcast, "Murder gave me stardom, but most importantly, it gave me economic independence. For me, winning awards was never the goal. What mattered was being able to live life on my own terms, regardless of whether they were right or wrong. Fame is just a byproduct."

But it was the harsh comments from her peers that completely broke her and she went crying to her mentor Mahesh Bhatt. Here's what the 'Sadak' film-maker told her. "There are some big-name actresses in Bollywood whose names I won't take, but they were condescending to my face. I ran to Mahesh Bhatt."

-ETimes



Singing dreams

Recently, during a chat on her show 'What Women Want', Alia Bhatt revealed to Kareena Kapoor Khan how she is musically inclined and had once wanted to become a singer. The Bollywood star now pushing for the release of 'Jigra' spoke about singing in a couple of her films- 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania' and 'Uda Punjab'-but pointed out that she is not a singer. One of them, Kareena jokingly asked Alia whether she was going to sing a single. That made both the actresses laugh, with Kareena

adding jokingly that Alia would not take to singing professionally for she does not believe Alia's voice was worth a record. Both the actresses were laughing along, as Alia shares that although she likes singing, she surely is not changing tracks to go professional. She said she might produce something with some help in a recording studio, but her ambitions to cut an album or a single have waxed and waned.

Alia said earlier that she had some thoughts of delving into music, but such plans didn't take off, and she now likes singing only casually, mainly in her bathroom. She said her co-star Vedang Raina in 'Jigra' is actually very talented in music and might go on to record a complete album, but for her, it's just a casual interest and pleasure.

As she continued talking, Alia added that her focus has gotten way more to the acting side. However, she never stops learning. The same was reflected when she talked about how her journey has been with the industry and evolved with time. Just recently, she did a Hollywood film, 'Heart of Stone'. She continued talking about the pain of handling two industries particularly after beginning a family.

Meanwhile, 'Jigra', the Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina starrer, hit the theatres.

-ETimes



All show, no substance

MARTIN (KANNADA)

2.5 RATING ★★★★★

• **DIRECTOR** AP Arjun
 • **ACTORS** Dhruva Sarja (double role), Vaibhavi Shandilya, Anveshi Jain, Nawab Shah, Rohit Pathak, Achyuth Kumar, Malavika Avinash, and Chikkanna.
 • **Duration** 147 minutes
 • **Certification** UA



tience. Dhruva Sarja's hardcore fans had waited for a long time to watch

him in action but director AP Arjun has let them down.

The screenplay is not convincing and the movie begins with a scene - claimed to be from a prison in Pakistan where jail authorities engage notorious criminals with ripped physiques to eliminate Indian prisoners held in Pakistan rather than using guns. A major portion of the pre-intermission is full of incongruous action scenes and showcasing the hero's body like that of a bodybuilder. The dialogues on repeat - Who am I? Who is Martin? - could have been avoided.

The movie is about Arjun

(Dhruva Sarja) who is captured in Pakistan. Arjun becomes aggressive due to excessive dosage of medicines. He beats whoever comes in his way. The prison authorities take him to a hospital where a Kannada-speaking doctor (Malavika Avinash) informs them that Arjun is suffering from anterograde amnesia. (It is not clear how there was a Kannada-speaking doctor at a Pakistan hospital). The pre-intermission session ends with a clue that Martin, who looks like Arjun, is a different person who has men and machinery in Mumbai. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback narrating

how Arjun, a naval officer, entered Pakistan and how he came to know about Mushtaq's plan to create havoc in India. As if that is not enough, Martin (Dhruva Sarja) announces that he is not Martin, a hint at a sequel to this movie.

As far as performances go, Action Prince Dhruva Sarja has tried his best to entertain his hard-core fans. Vaibhavi Shandilya has no scope to showcase her acting skills. Achyuth Kumar and Chikkanna too have nothing to do in this movie except appearing in a few scenes. Cinematography by Satya Hegde and music by Mani Sharma and Ravi Basur are good.

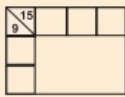
Only hard-core fans of Dhruva Sarja may be able to digest this film.

-Y Maheswara Reddy

Martin is a multilingual movie that created a lot of pre-release buzz because of its budget, cast and the multiple postponements. The movie was released on Friday with a lot of promise but ended up an hyped-up movie that tests the audiences' pa-

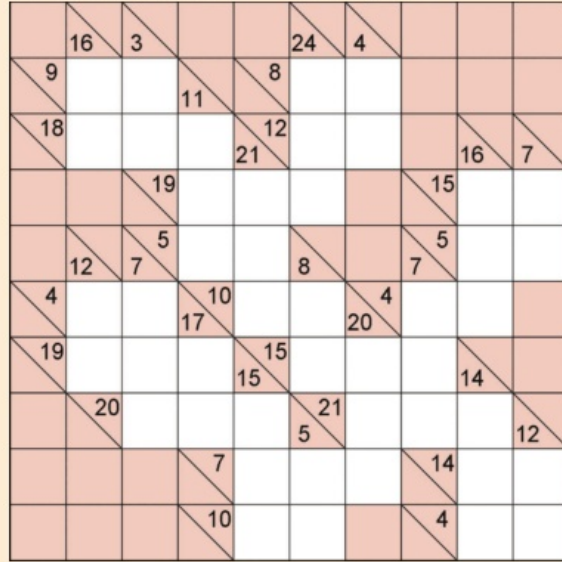
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

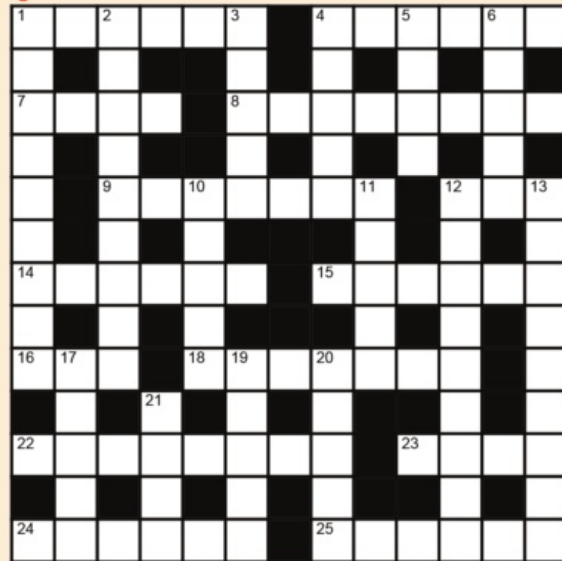


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Resides or inhabits (6)
- 4 Destitution, need (6)
- 7 Palindromic German (4)
- 8 Exposés (8)
- 9 Bangalore based tennis player who won the 2024 Australian Open doubles title (7)
- 12 Part of a circle (3)
- 14 Purchased (6)
- 15 Excavates or unearths? (4,2)
- 16 Command to a horse (3)
- 18 Renowned archer ____ Tell (7)
- 22 Capital of Finland (8)
- 23 Not uneven (4)
- 24 Extreme (6)
- 25 Gushing hot spring (6)

DOWN

- 1 A type of bomb—"go bed loud" anagram? (9)
- 2 First half of Julius Caesar's last words? (2,2,5)
- 3 Finnish style steam bath (5)
- 4 Hickory tree (5)
- 5 Body of the church (4)
- 6 Not as common (5)
- 10 Exclamation expressing contempt (5)
- 11 Proof of innocence (5)
- 12 Brings together (9)
- 13 Electrical condenser (9)
- 17 A happening (5)
- 19 Otherwise? (2,3)
- 20 ____ low : keeping a low profile, in a way? (5)
- 21 Capital of Norway (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS P
WZIWZB MTI KNEEC YVEJ
CVHZ YIO OZNOZKVIE KOZ
IQBVUJZ FIIEZO IO BKGZO CI
YVEJ CVHZ YIO VBBEZF.



Linemaro

You must be a banana because I find you a peeling



Mindchow

When you find the answer to life's questions, life changes the questions



Joke of the day

A quick way to lose weight: subtract your birth weight, because you haven't gained that part

Loop

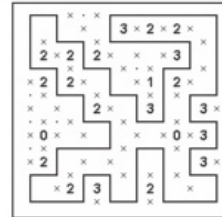
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

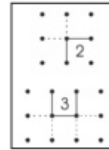
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

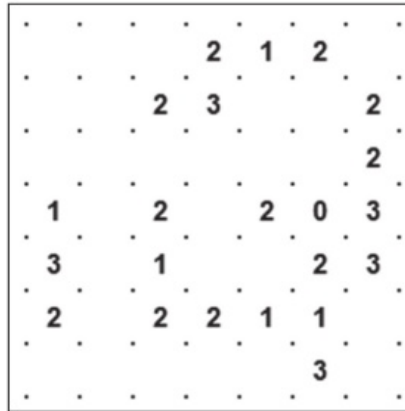
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



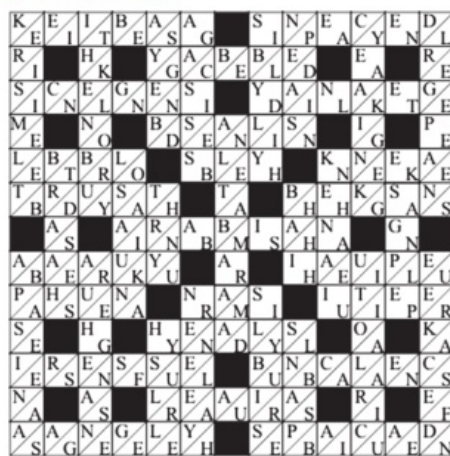
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



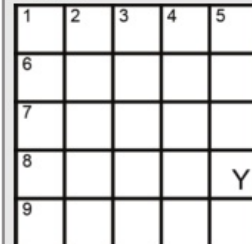
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Asset; 6 I'm Ali;
- 7 Mun to; 8 Ley eg.;
- 9 Drier

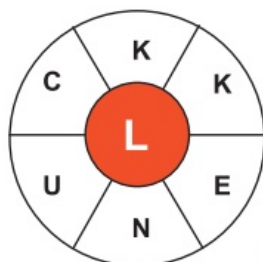
DOWN

- 1 Mr Mee; 2 A oil I;
- 3 Duels; 4 Get in;
- 5 Trays

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:

P A R K I N G _____



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 15

3 3 3 6

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 7

2 3 6 8

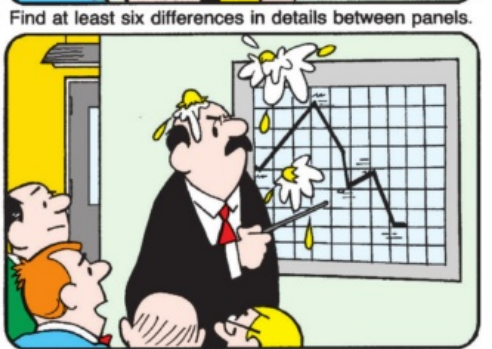
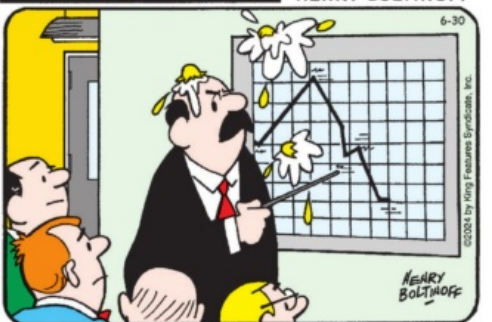
Hard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 2

3 4 7 3

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pointer is shorter. 2. Moustache is smaller. 3. Man's head is turned. 4. Ear is different. 5. Line on chart is different. 6. Mouth is open.

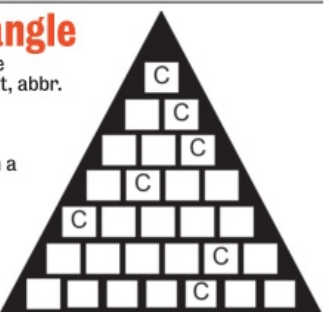
Riddler

Starting with I, add a letter and shuffle to make a new word each time until you reach CRINKLE.

Alpha triangle

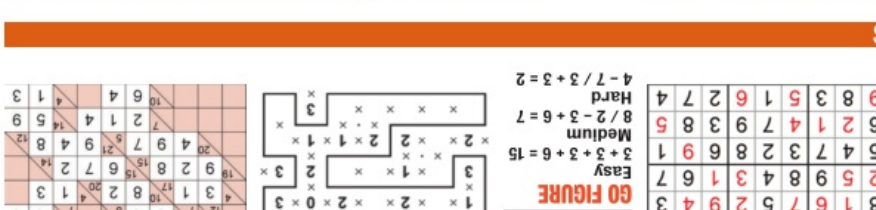
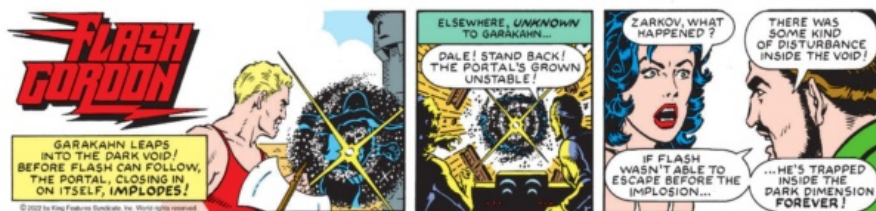
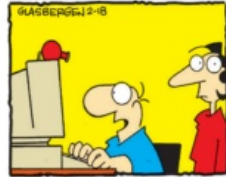
- 1 Computer language
- 2 Alternating current, abbr.
- 3 Fleshy pouch
- 4 Top cards
- 5 Bring about
- 6 Payment period on a Bill of Exchange
- 7 Subtleties

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20
Today, you may feel quite dull, which could make you lazy and careless. You might struggle to stay focused at work, and impatience may negatively affect your performance. It's best to avoid making investments in assets for now. Health concerns related to your kids and spouse may cause some distress. Lovebirds should avoid arguments over family matters. Students are advised to study thoroughly to succeed in their exams.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, bringing you vitality and energy. You'll enjoy your work and may even start planning a new project. Your attention to detail will help you design an effective flowchart for it. Job seekers may find a good opportunity. Lovebirds should avoid discussing trivial topics to prevent misunderstandings.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Any messy situation from previous days is now under control. You may resume postponed work, and with these blessings, you may be rewarded for your hard work. There will be financial gains in your business, boosting your savings. You may also spend on art or literature and plan for overseas travel.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20
Today, the moon's negative influence may bring some negative energy around you, making you feel upset. Avoid making investments in worthless assets. It's best not to have high expectations from those around you at work, home, or in society, as this could lead to more frustration. Trust your intuition before making any important decisions today.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23
Today may bring disappointment. It's important to control your arrogance, as speaking thoughtlessly may lead to losses. Lovebirds should also be cautious about discussing unimportant matters, as this could lead to a breakup or conflicts.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull and face health issues, which could impact both your professional and personal life. Concerns about your spouse's health may upset you. Ongoing projects might come to a halt without any apparent reason. It is advised to avoid making investments in new business projects to prevent losses. Students should stay grounded and focus on their studies instead of indulging in fantasies.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21
You are blessed by the elders today. You may successfully implement your business plans with the help of your subordinates. Social or family gatherings could boost your network. A short business-related trip is likely, which may bring benefits in the near future. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon; new sources of income may open up for you. Your past investments will start generating profits, converting your losses into gains, which will improve your financial health. Health issues concerning your parents may also be resolved.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19
Today, work will keep you busy. You may explore additional sources of income, which will help increase your bank balance. Your interest in art, movies, and glamour may enhance your creativity. Lovebirds might turn their relationship into marriage. Students will continue progressing toward their career goals.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23
Today is a good day, especially for your financial health. You may see benefits from past investments, and you'll likely be able to control unnecessary spending, boosting your savings. Lovebirds are advised to be polite in conversations with their partners to avoid potential conflicts.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22
Today, you may feel very happy. You may be busy with work. Your seniors may appreciate your efforts, possibly leading to changes in your responsibilities or even a promotion. Your opponents and hidden enemies will be under control. Singles and couples may take important steps toward marriage with the support of friends or relatives.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. You'll feel healthy, and old health issues may be resolved now. Any money that was stuck somewhere is likely to be recovered. You may also apply for a loan to purchase luxury items. Additionally, you'll be able to keep your opponents in check.

KIDZONE



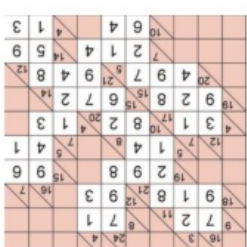
Anushika KV, Bengaluru



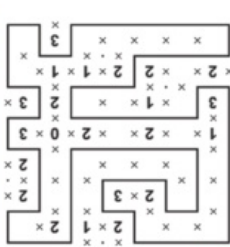
A Manya Ravi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

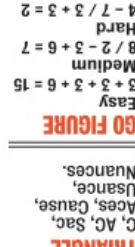
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



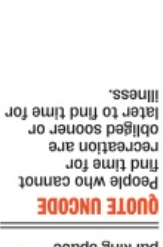
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



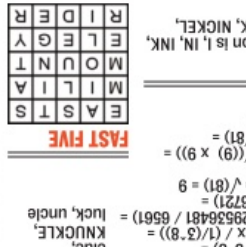
MENSA PUZZLE



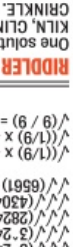
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS' EYE



RIDDLE

WIN



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WIN



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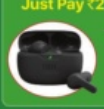
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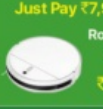
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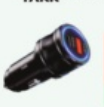
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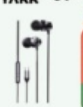
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